

## **Governor's Commission on Family Farms**

**September 27, 2000**

**Berry Hill Mansion, Frankfort**

**10:00 AM EST**

**Members present:** Jim Naive, Chairman; Karen Armstrong-Cummings; Bill Atkins; Alice Baesler; John Berry; Ron Catchen; Sharon Furches; John-Mark Hack; Susan Harkins; Denise Hoffman; Kirby Hancock; Janet Johnson; David Kash; Sylvia Lovely; Luther Mason; Mike Stivers Representing Commissioner Billy Ray Smith, and Bob Sparks; Bonnie Tanner.

**Absent were:** John Medley, Ken Mattingly, Chris Kummer, Hampton Henton, Jr., Mattie Mack, Al Pedigo, William Brandon Reed, Don Halcomb, Mark Haney, Secretary Allen Rose.

**Guests included:** Jeff Hall U.K. College of Agriculture, Dr. Louise Rivers, Tony Mcvey, and Jody Hughes.

**Chairman Naïve called the meeting to order and the secretary called the roll.**

Chairman Naïve welcomed commission members and guests.

Jody Hughes updated the committee on the efforts of the Farm Labor Task Force.

John-Mark Hack discussed the commission's influence on the Agriculture Development Board; \*Agriculture Development Board sees the Agriculture entrepreneurship program as a stand alone entity. Final approval is expected at the Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. This is in the handouts you received at the meeting. John-Mark briefed the members on priorities of the board, county councils and staff.

Kirby Hancock and Dr. Sparks addressed Commission members concerning county council member community forums and the county councils need for plans.

Janet Johnson asked if application forms could be developed by the county council.

John-Mark Hack replied no, the state board will develop and probably approve forms at the October meeting. Board will not be a grant making entity, must affect many farmers not single – not setting farmers in business.

David Kash addressed the board about rural counties needing money for individuals.

John-Mark Hack replied that the counties can fund individuals, state will not.

Ron Catchen addressed the board about the question of accountability.

John-Mark Hack stated that it is being developed.

**Phase II Tobacco Settlement:** mailed 123,000 applications:  
Outside vending administration processing and certification.

**Tobacco Buyout Proposal:**  
Governor's Plan Buyout proposal supports tobacco plan or not support?

David Kash asks how to pay for it?

John-Mark Hack states that this is for the Presidential Committee to decide.

David Kash asks if this is voluntary.

John-Mark Hack recommends mandatory – If you don't grow it, than you don't keep it. Get the quota into hands of active growers.

John Berry states original plan never had leasing intents. Leasing adds 50 cents to 60 cents on the pound. Federal price support should remain, leasing has caused an overpricing of tobacco. Federal Price supports paid by manufacturers, this does not cost any tax money.

Jim Naïve announced the new staff member of the Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy will be Angie Whitehouse.

Commission's Purpose: Is there a need for the Commission?  
Should our recommendation to the Governor be to disband?  
So many other organizations... If we stay, should we be more issue oriented.

### **Sylvia Lovely – Urban / Rural Partnership Committee**

Jody Hughes – Labor oriented; Financial Planning; Committee Structure?

Sylvia Lovely – vital to communities to have farm links helpful to cities.

Commission should focus in on purpose; Are we to recommend?  
Can't get anything done no matter how good an idea we have.

John-Mark Hack stated all staff will be available to commission assignment made of administration purposes only. Commission needed for advisory purposes to Agriculture Board Development. We are coordinating with other agencies.

Sharon Furches stated that agriculture policy expansion gives us more credibility.

Susan Harkins discussed being part of the Commission and seeing Agriculture Development Board embrace our center for entrepreneurship is an action tool for our ideas.

Susan Harkins asked what does KARDA do?

KARDA brings commodities together.  
GCFF focus on family farms, culture preserve lifestyle.

John-Mark Hack stated that GCFF are farmers; KARDA represents groups and organizations.

Bill Atkins stated that communication with Agriculture Development Board is a think tank for the board and a research tool.

Jim Naïve      KARDA - Legislated  
                    GCFF – Executive order

John Berry stated that the best group of individual membership still not sure of our role. Issues charged with addressing includes every aspect of issues we face as farmers and rural Ky. GCFF wasn't involved with Tobacco Settlement. Was center of entrepreneurship and HB611. Where does it go from here? What difference does it make?

Susan Harkins comment - Take something with us to other organizations. Not enough justification for existence. Results? No power to do anything with them. Our task is to advise Governor. How? Wasn't on his request. Nothing happening after meeting.

Jim Naïve commented that the center for entrepreneurship is a homerun; unified plan was frameworks of HB611.

Janet Johnson discussed the Farm to Table Connection Conference that will be held on October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

Ron Catchen asked do we make a difference in the life of family farms? If yes, lets continue as a group or what we take back to the organization that we are associated with. Co-ops are great ideas but legal issues have been a stumbling block. Agriculture education needs to get on with it.

Sylvia Lovely suggests talking to the Governor about re-changing our mission, farm to table using commission's name without permission from the Governor.

Kirby Hancock asked who will oversee Entrepreneurship Center?  
John-Mark Hack will initially be support for Agriculture Development Board.

John Berry stated not to diminish importance of what happened in the past.

John-Mark Hack asks what role does the Commission want to play?

Jim Naïve comments that support is needed in the urban/rural committee and education.

Janet Johnson briefing on Farm to Table: Lots of support from restaurants/chefs for Ky probducts.

## **LUNCH**

Jim Naïve announced that his term will expire at the end of the year.

Jeff Hall announced that Governor is very interested in the Agriculture Development Board. What investments need to be made to revitalize agriculture. He is listening and the responsibility of the GCFF is to go to him with recommendations, make proposals, take to him. Perhaps the Buyout Plan?

Karen Armstrong Cummings asks what is the mission and purpose of the committee?

Alice Baesler comments that we need to move with recommendations for buyout.

Jim Naïve suggests that the commission choose a committee to look into and decide on the mission and purpose.

John-Mark Hack will be happy to facilitate this.

Jim Naïve appoints the committee as follows: John Berry, chair, Alice Baesler, Al Pedigo, David Kash, and Kirby Hancock as the buyout task to advise the Governor. Committee members will meet and report to GCFF in October meeting.

Karen Armstrong Cummings requested the Committee to create a yearly work plan regularly scheduled meetings, address A-N and how we plan to address. Is someone already doing it? Coordinators of Department of Agriculture and Agriculture Policy is questionable.

John-Mark Hack executive order; work plan; scheduled meeting; ect.

Bill Atkins motions and second to approve Karen's recommendations.

Jim Naïve creation of Strategic Plan Development Committee, can Karen chair? Karen replies she is too busy and isn't sure she will remain on the Commission.

Bill Atkins will chair, Bonnie Tanner will sit on committee. Alice Baesler, Jim Naïve will attend. Luther Mason and Jeff Harper will provide support.

Ron Catchen with the Education Committee included in second annual report. Educational needs of family farmers, who will meet those needs and prioritize.

Governor influences people to attend summit meeting.

Jody Hughes and Alice Baesler comments that U.K. extension agents are not getting information. Legal workforce, every employer must complete an I-9 form on every worker. Farmer's first line of defense – 60% to 70% of Kentucky illegal.

Karen Armstrong Cummings – USDA small farm commission meeting criticized Kentucky because of H2A.

Center for Entrepreneurship:

GCFF members have continued to work on development of center.

Becky Naugle, Tim Woods, Don Halcomb, and Jim Naïve.

Center presentation @ State Fair by Tim and Becky.

Marketing and Entrepreneurship committee of Agriculture Development Board meets.

Susan Harkins need more detail. Agriculture Development Board ready to move. Proposal will be brought to GCFF.

Ron Catchen invites commission to court days in Mt. Sterling, KY.

Alice Baesler announces that Women in Agriculture Conference will be at the state fair and Exposition Center in Louisville, Kentucky in cooperation with the Agriculture Summit.

John-Mark Hack informs the commission that a strategic plan will be discussed at the next meeting on October 31.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10.

\*A copy of all meeting handouts are on file in the Commission on Family Farms meeting folder located in the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy.